REMARKS

In the Office Action of May 9, 2002, Claims 6 - 9 were rejected. Claims 10 - 17 were allowed. In response, Claim 6 is amended. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Request for Entry of Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116

It is respectfully requested that the above amendment to Claim 6 be entered. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment overcomes the rejection of Claims 6 - 9 over Suzuki and that the applicants have a good and sufficient reason why the amendment was not presented earlier in that the Suzuki reference was not applied against Claim 6 until the final Office Action of May 9, 2002.

Rejection of Claims 6 - 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Suzuki

Claims 6 - 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 5,484,940. The Examiner alleges that Suzuki teaches compounds of instant formula I for use in the treatment of Parkinson's disease and that Parkinson's disease is a degenerative disease of the nervous system.

It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is overcome by the amendment to Claim 6 presented herein, wherein the present invention is directed to a method of inhibiting neurodegeneration except Parkinson's disease. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 6 - 9 over Suzuki is thereby overcome.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 6 - 9 are in condition for allowance, together with the previously allowed

Claims 10 - 17. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Kindly charge any additional fees due, or credit overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (File No. 506.38266X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By _____
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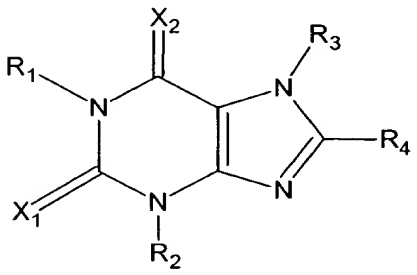
RTW/dlt

Attachment: Marked-up copy showing changes made

MARKED-UP COPY TO SHOWING CHANGES MADE

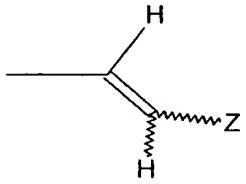
IN THE CLAIMS:

6. (Twice amended) A method of inhibiting neurodegeneration except Parkinson's disease, which comprises administering an effective dose of a xanthine derivative represented by formula (I):

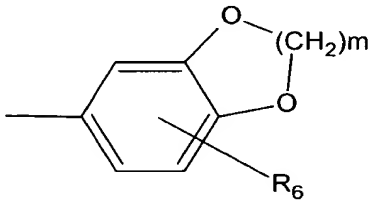


(I)

wherein X_1 and X_2 independently represent O or S, R_1, R_2 and R_3 independently represent hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl or lower alkynyl; R_4 represents the following group:



wherein Y_1 and Y_2 independently represent hydrogen, halogen or lower alkyl, and Z represents substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or the following group:



wherein m is an integer of 1 to 3 and R_6 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, nitro or amino, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group selected from furyl and pyridyl; and wherein the substituted aryl and the

substituted heterocyclic group have 1 to 3 independently-selected substituents selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or lower alkoxy substituted with a substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, lower alkoxy, halogen, amino, azido, carboxy and lower alkoxycarbonyl, halogen, nitro, amino, lower alkylamino, di(lower alkyl)amino, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, benzyloxy, phenyl, phenoxy, lower alkanoyl, lower alkanoyloxy, aroyloxy, aralkanoyloxy, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, lower alkylcarbamoyl, di(lower alkyl)carbamoyl, sulfo, lower alkoxysulfonyl, lower alkylsulfamoyl and di(lower alkyl)sulfamoyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as an active ingredient.